

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 22, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 1, 2, and 13-19 are cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9-12 have been amended. Claims 3-12 and 20-22 are pending.

Initially, the Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. In particular, Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Claims 7 and 8 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and Claims 20-22 are allowed.

Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 3 has been amended to now recite, inter alia, "wherein said spring cylinder allows said conductor to extend and make the electrical connection with the first connector of the first mating device, when the first connector is pushed towards the spring **cylinder** a pre-specified amount". Claim 6 has been amended to now recite, inter alia, "wherein said spring sleeve comprises a spring clip insulator having a cut there through, said spring clip insulator for expanding and opening at the cut to allow said **conductor** to pass there through to make the electrical connection, only when the pre-specified amount of torque has been applied to thread the internal threaded portion onto the external threaded portion".

Claims 3 and 6 are believed to now comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 2,402,049 to Ingalls (hereinafter "Ingalls"). Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 2,405,881 to Frei (hereinafter "Frei"). Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ingalls.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the above rejections but, to expedite prosecution, provides the following arguments and amendments to place the application in condition for allowance.

As noted above, Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled.

Allowable Claims 6 and 7 have respectively been amended to now be in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3, 4, and 9-12 have been amended to now depend from Claim 7 and, thus include all of the limitations of Claim 7.

Claim 5 depends from a claim that, in turn, depends from Claim 7 and, thus, includes all of the limitations of Claim 7.

Accordingly, Claims 3-5 and 9-12 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to allowable Claim 7.

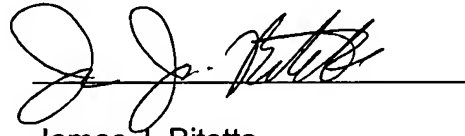
Thus, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action of November 22, 2004 be withdrawn, that pending claims 3-12 and 20-22 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account No.

Respectfully submitted,
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